

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for downloading applications stored in an application database that is coupled to a cellular communication network~~, said method comprising:

connecting a first mobile terminal to an ~~with the~~ application database through a ~~the~~ cellular communication network, the application database containing at least one application having a variable selectable lifetime;

receiving a user-specified choice of ~~choosing an application of~~ the at least one application for downloading to the first mobile terminal;

providing the application database with information identifying a user of the first mobile terminal;

receiving a user-specified selection of a variable ~~selecting a~~ lifetime for the chosen application, during which lifetime the chosen application is executable;

downloading the chosen application from said application database to the first mobile terminal; and

storing indicia of the selected lifetime for the chosen application and of the information identifying the user, wherein the stored indicia corresponds to the selected lifetime during which the chosen application is further executable at mobile terminals accessible by the user.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of downloading the chosen application is performed over a wireless connection.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the short-range connection is an infrared connection.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the indicia is stored in an application-license database in connection with the application database.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the information identifying the user is based on Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) information.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:
receiving in the application database a request from the user for a subsequent downloading of a previously-downloaded application;
determining whether lifetime remains by reference to the stored indicia of the selected lifetime for a previously-downloaded application for the user; and

downloading the application a subsequent time, if it is determined that at least a portion of the selected lifetime remains for the requested application.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the request is received from a second mobile terminal.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the subsequent downloading comprises downloading the application to a second mobile terminal.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of refusing the request for subsequent downloading if the determination indicates that lifetime has expired in the stored indicia for said user.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of downloading is performed over a wireless connection.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of downloading over a wireless connection is performed through the cellular communication network.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the downloading over a wireless connection is achieved by way of a short-range connection.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the short-range connection is an infrared connection.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a period of time measured from a predetermined starting time.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the predetermined starting time is the time of downloading the chosen application.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the lifetime is a predetermined number of downloads.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~In a communication system having at least one mobile terminal capable of communicating by way of a radio link with network infrastructure, the at least one mobile terminal having memory for at least one application, an improvement of apparatus for downloading an application to the at least one mobile terminal, said apparatus~~ Apparatus comprising:

a network infrastructure configured to communicate with at least one mobile terminal;

an application database ~~coupled to the network infrastructure, the application database~~ containing at least one downloadable application, the application having a user-selectable variable lifetime during which the application is permitted to remain executable by an identified user;

a downloading server configured to communicate through the network infrastructure and configured to detect ~~detector coupled to the network infrastructure, the detector for detecting a~~ request containing information identifying a user to download a chosen application of the at least one application contained ~~in at the application database, the downloading server being further configured to obtain~~ ~~detector for obtaining~~ the application from the application database, and to download ~~for downloading~~ the application to the at least one mobile terminal ~~to be installed thereat; and~~

an application-license database coupled to the downloading server ~~network infrastructure,~~ the application-license database configured to store ~~for storing~~ the selected variable lifetime and the user-identifying information; ~~and~~

~~a downloading server, the downloading server coupled to the detector, the downloading server coupled to the application database, and the downloading server coupled to the application license database;~~

wherein the downloading server is configured to compare the download request to the selected lifetime and the user-identifying information stored in the application-license database for the chosen application, wherein the downloading server is further configured to download ~~downloads~~ said application if the user has application lifetime remaining for the requested application.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said downloadable application is preprogrammed with the selected lifetime, wherein the downloadable application is configured to delete ~~deletes~~ itself from the at least one mobile terminal when the selected lifetime expires.

43. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the selected lifetime expires as a function of a selected number of transactions.

44. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the lifetime expires as a function of a selected time.

45. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~A mobile terminal operable in a wireless communication system, said mobile terminal comprising:~~

a central processing unit (CPU);

a memory unit coupled with the CPU and configured to store ~~for storing~~ at least one application;

an application requestor coupled with the CPU and configured to generate ~~for generating~~ requests to download a variable-lifetime application from an application database;

a lifetime selector coupled with the CPU and configured to select ~~for selecting~~ a variable lifetime applicable to a downloaded application;

a lifetime determiner coupled with the CPU and configured to determine ~~for determining~~ ~~the a~~ remaining portion of the lifetime associated with a downloaded application; and

an application disabler coupled with the CPU and configured to disable ~~for disabling~~ an application;

wherein the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ is operable to receive and store downloaded applications and to permit the downloaded application to be executed at the mobile terminal as long as a portion of its ~~the~~ associated lifetime remains.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 45, wherein the application disabler is configured to disable ~~disables~~ an application when the associated lifetime has expired.

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 45, wherein the application disabler is configured to delete ~~deletes~~ an application with lifetime remaining in order to free storage space in the memory unit.

48. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 45, wherein the application requester is operable to request a previously-downloaded application for which at least a portion of the associated lifetime remains.

49. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 45, wherein the memory unit also stores lifetime indicia associated with downloaded applications.

50-52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) A method comprising ~~steps of:~~
receiving a selected choice of ~~choosing~~ a first application from a mobile terminal, the first application being one of a plurality of applications; and
receiving the first application via a wireless network, the first application being configured to become unavailable for use on the mobile terminal upon either
expiration of a ~~predetermined~~ time period selectable by a user of the mobile

terminal, or

use of the first application a ~~predetermined~~ number of times selectable by a user
of the mobile terminal.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the wireless network is a cellular communication network.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the wireless network comprises short-range wireless communication.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~55~~56, wherein the short-range wireless communication comprises an infrared connection.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising receiving the user-selected ~~selecting the predetermined~~ time period for the first application from the mobile terminal.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising receiving the user-selected ~~selecting the predetermined~~ number of times the first application may be used from the mobile terminal.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by becoming non-functional.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by automatically deleting at least a portion of itself.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the first application is configured to delete only executable code.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the first application is configured to retain customized settings in the mobile terminal.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

subsequently receiving a re-selected choice of re-choosing the first application; and
again receiving the first application if time remains in the predetermined time period.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

subsequently receiving a re-selected choice re-choosing of the first application; and
again receiving the first application if the first application has been used less than the predetermined number of times.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

paying for the first application, wherein the amount of said payment is based on either the user-selectable predetermined time period or the user-selectable predetermined number of times.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
making an initial payment for the first application;
subsequently receiving another selection of ~~re-choosing~~ the first application;
again receiving the first application if there is time remaining in the user-selected
~~predetermined~~ time period; and
making additional payment for said again receiving the first application, wherein the
amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the initial payment.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
making an initial payment for the first application;
subsequently receiving another selection of ~~re-choosing~~ the first application;
again receiving the first application if the first application has been used less than the
user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times; and
making additional payment for said again receiving the first application, wherein the
amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the initial payment.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
determining, at each attempt to use the first application, whether time remains in the user-
selected ~~predetermined~~ time period, and
deleting the first application if time does not remain in the user-selected ~~predetermined~~
time period.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

determining, at each attempt to use the first application, whether the first application has been used less than the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times, and deleting the first application if the first application has been used the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein said receiving a selected choice ~~choosing~~ step comprises selecting a link at a website.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising deleting a pre-existing application to create memory space for the first application.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application is a game.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the first application contains executable digital information.

74. (Currently Amended) A method comprising steps of:

receiving a choice of ~~choosing~~ a first ringing tone at ~~from~~ a mobile terminal, the first ringing tone being one of a plurality of ringing tones; and

receiving the first ringing tone via a wireless network, the first ringing tone being configured to become unavailable for use on the mobile terminal upon either

expiration of a user-selectable ~~predetermined~~-time period, or

use of the first ringing tone a user-selectable ~~predetermined~~ number of times.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the wireless network is a cellular network.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the wireless network comprises short-range wireless communication.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein the short-range wireless communication comprises an infrared connection.

78. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising receiving at the mobile terminal the user-selectable ~~selecting the predetermined~~ time period for the first ringing tone.

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising receiving at the mobile terminal the user-selectable ~~selecting the predetermined~~ number of times the first ringing tone may be used.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising:

subsequently receiving a re-selection of ~~re-choosing~~ the first ringing tone; and
again receiving the first ringing tone if there is time remaining in the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ time period.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
subsequently receiving a re-selection of ~~re-choosing~~ the first ringing tone; and
again receiving the first ringing tone if the first ringing tone has been used less than the
user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
paying for the first ringing tone, wherein the amount of said payment is based on either
the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ time period or the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
making an initial payment for the first ringing tone;
subsequently receiving a re-selection of ~~re-choosing~~ the first ringing tone;
again receiving the first ringing if there is time remaining in the user-selected
~~predetermined~~ time period; and
making additional payment for said again receiving the first ringing tone, wherein the
amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the first payment.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, further comprising:
making an initial payment for the first ringing tone;
subsequently receiving a re-selection of ~~re-choosing~~ the first ringing tone;
again receiving the first ringing tone if the first ringing tone has been used less than the
user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times; and
making additional payment for said again receiving the first ringing tone, wherein the

amount of said additional payment is reduced from the amount of the first payment.

85. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said choosing step comprises selecting a link at a website.

86. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~A mobile terminal~~, comprising:

a memory; and

a central processing unit (CPU), wherein the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ is configured to perform steps including

transmitting over a wireless communication network a choice of a first application, the first application being one of a plurality of applications,

receiving the first application via the ~~a~~ wireless network, the first application being configured to become unavailable for use on the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ upon either

expiration of a user-selectable ~~predetermined~~ time period, or

use of the first application a user-selectable ~~predetermined~~ number of times, and

storing the first application in the memory.

87. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the wireless network is a cellular communication network.

88. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the wireless network comprises short-range wireless communication.

89. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 88, wherein the short-range wireless communication comprises an infrared connection.

90. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to transmit a selection of the user-selectable ~~predetermined~~ time period for the first application.

91. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the mobile terminal is further configured to transmit a selection of the user-selectable ~~predetermined~~ number of times the first application may be used.

92. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by becoming non-functional.

93. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the first application is configured to become unavailable by automatically deleting at least a portion of itself.

94. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 93, wherein the first application is configured to delete only executable code.

95. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 93, wherein the first

application is configured to retain customized settings in the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~.

96. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ is further configured to

transmit a subsequent re-choice of the first application, and

again receive the first application if time remains in the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ time period.

97. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ is further configured to

transmit a subsequent re-choice of the first application; and

again receive the first application if the first application has been used less than the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times.

98. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ is further configured to

determine, at each attempt to use the first application, whether time remains in the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ time period, and

delete the first application if time does not remain in the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ time period.

99. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ is further configured to

determine, at each attempt to use the first application, whether the first application has been used less than the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times, and delete the first application if the first application has been used the user-selected ~~predetermined~~ number of times.

100. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein said transmitting a choice comprises transmitting a selection of a link at a website.

101. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the first application is a ringing tone.

102. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the first application is a game.

103. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~mobile terminal~~ of claim 86, wherein the first application contains executable digital information.